

California GARDEN

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Photo by Walter Wilder

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By Sarah V. Coombs (F. A. Stokes Company)

DECEMBER
1936

Every Five Days
By Ruth R. Nelson

Fall Clippings
By Bertha M. Thomas

The
December Garden
By Walter Birch, Jr.

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December Meeting

Another contribution of South Africa to Southern California floriculture was the subject of the speaker of the evening at the November meeting of the Floral Association. The Clivia, its history and culture, was presented by Mr. A. T. Zimmerman grower of these and similar plants at Carlsbad.

Clivias, with their handsome strap-like leaves and heavy heads of beautifully colored blooms, are not so frequently seen as their attractiveness deserves. They are not difficult, they just have their peculiarities that need to be understood and were explained by Mr. Zimmerman. Starting with young plants they are apt to be a little tedious because they take from four to six years to bloom. They do not want to be fussed with and moved about but their feeding must not be neglected for they are gross feeders and must have plenty of fertilizer and water.

The natural habitat of the Clivia is along the bank of a river in the dense shade. They show a distinct dislike of drafts in cultivation and if the leaves are a light green the plants are probably either in the wrong location or suffering from malnutrition. The deeper the shade of the leaves, the healthier the plant it. Transplanting should be done in June or July, after the blooming season.

Mr. Zimmerman also discussed the Scarborough lily, another beautiful native of the Transvaal, and the ornamental Crinum who like partial shade and are also heavy

eaters; the Nerines that bloom in many lovely colors and like the full sun and clay or heavy soils; the pink Amaryllis belladonna that is lovely, fragrant and most commonly known, and others of interest. Included particularly was a Watsonia that Mr. Zimmerman has been working with for twenty-six years that has developed a blossom four inches across.

Miss Kate Sessions delighted those at the meeting with a new and glowing treasure from her garden—a red morning glory, Ipomea Batata from the tropics—that is blooming for her now.

Mrs. Mary Greer, president, announced the Junior League Garden department's benefit for the Floral Association to be given at the Phillip Bartlett home at 434 W Thorn, December 15, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

—Nellie Perry.

California Plants At Cape Town

The superintendent of the National Botanic gardens at the Cape of Good Hope, S. Africa, writes on date of Sept. 15th that the Ceanothus Cyaneus from San Diego is a beautiful feature in his own home garden. Also the Fremontia Mexicana is in bloom, doing well and much admired, but the bugs like it.

He asks for some seeds of the other blue flowering Ceanothus. Enclosed with his letter were a few seeds of the Gardenia Thunbergia which he said grew readily but the

plants were very slow in growth. This mutual exchange of seeds—for climates so very much alike—though at so great a distance and their seasons directly opposite seems like a neighborly feature.

—K. O. Sessions.

Garden Pictures

There is a large estate, comprised of a stately house and noble sweeps of lawns, which here and there are dotted by groups of old trees. In these grounds is a white stone balustrade, which tops a gentle rise of lawn. On the pillars of the balustrade stand urns of blooming fuchsias, and as they stand the fuchsias drip their shining pendants of blooms into the sunlight. Nearby, hundreds of purple salviyas—salvia leucantha—spread their soft white-eyed beauty in a dash of color, while above and beside, stand glorious gold and bronze dahlias, vying with the salviyas in strength of color and splendid effect. Myriads of black and gold bumble bees hum their songs of praise among the purple blooms. Over this floods the warm sunlight and sea breezes of Santa Barbara.

Mary A. Greer.

This department, "Garden Pictures" conducted by Hazel Boyer Braun in memory of Harriet Sefton Campbell.

On Sale—Complete files of the California Garden.

Pacific Coast Region News Items . . .

By Cora Caverno

Members of garden clubs are awaiting with keen interest news of plans for the second Pacific Coast Regional Meeting to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, March 11, 12 and 13. Headquarters will be Hotel Westward Ho.

Mrs. Harlow D. Phelps, president of the Arizona State Federation of Garden Clubs, reports preparations for a program which will show not only successful adaptation to environment in horticultural practice but also one expressive of cooperation between the National Council and the member states which was so clearly brought out at the first Pacific Coast Regional meeting.

Mrs. Gross R. Scruggs of Dallas, Texas, president of the National Council, will be a guest speaker presenting a message inspired by years of devotion to the spread of beauty in our country. Mrs. George K. Ford of San Francisco, chairman of the newly established branch of the National Program and Lecture Bureau Committee, will explain the services available through her office, assuring to the Pacific Coast Region a wide range of program helps as well as qualified speakers to deal with the exceptional horticultural problems of this very varied section of our country. Miss Charlotte M. Hoak of Los Angeles will interpret the world zone planting maps the making of which, with accompanying horticultural lists, was accepted as a common problem by member states at the first Regional meeting. The presiding officer at all business meetings will be Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, National Vice-President and Regional director, whose clear perception of needs in this great field of work, outstanding achievements in furthering the best interests of the region, and a pleasing personality inspire cooperation among the states and loyalty to the common cause of making our country a better place in which to live.

This splendid spirit was expressed

after the first Regional meeting by the distribution of mimeographed copies of the report of this meeting among the individual clubs of Washington, Oregon and Arizona, the lead being taken by Washington under the direction of its president, Mrs. Killian J. Weiler. California made its distribution by means of a comprehensive digest of the report in its official magazine, *Golden Gardens*. The newly elected president in Washington, Mrs. L. Houston Reusch, is likewise endeavoring to form the desirable close connection between activities of the State and the National Council through the regional set-up by inviting the resident regional officers of the state board meetings. Oregon, through its president, Mrs. E. C. Dalton, announces an excellent weekly radio program which centers in the State University and continues throughout the college year. Mrs. Dalton says, "The program is practical information concerning basic principles in garden design, materials, maintenance, and construction, and we believe it does much to interest our members and others in the work of the Federation."

The Pacific Coast Region welcomes most heartily the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society of Victoria, B. C. to membership in the National Council and look forward with pleasant anticipation to sharing their rich English garden heritage and knowledge of rare alpines. The new membership was brought about through the influence of our Regional director, Mrs. Slosson.

During October, the Fifth Fall Meeting of California Garden Clubs Inc., was held at Santa Maria. The Fourth Annual Convention of the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs occurred in Seattle on September 29-30 with an attendance of 327 members. The Convention was welcomed by Mayor Dore. Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson was

the speaker at the official luncheon and was enthusiastically greeted. Mrs. E. C. Dalton, president of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs and Mrs. U. G. Smith, a district vice-president, made a neighborly call which was greatly appreciated especially as Oregon is the pioneer federation state of the region.

Already the states of the region have made their selection of endemic trees of which colored slides are being made as a gift to the National Council collection of slides in accordance with a resolution carried at the first Regional meeting. Collecting the slides was a matter delegated to Mrs. First Johnson of Seattle.

From California will come slides of:

Sequoia gigantea, (Big Tree palm)
Yucca arborescens (Joshua Tree)
Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey cypress)
Platanus racemosa (Pacific Coast sycamore)
Quercus agrifolia (Coast Live Oak)
Libocedrus decurrens (Incense cedar)
Pinus Torreyana (Torrey pine)
Sequoia sempervirens (Redwood)

From Oregon:
Umbellularia Californica (Oregon Myrtle)
Chamaecyparis lawsonii (Port Orford cedar)
Picea breweriana (Weeping spruce)
Alnus Oregonia (Oregon Alder)
Fraxinus Oregonia (Oregon Ash)

From Washington:
Pseudotsuga taxifolia (Douglas Fir)
Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar)
Tauga Heterophylla (Western Hemlock)
Arbutus Menziesii (Madrona)
Cornus Nuttallii (Dogwood)

These slides will be shown at the Regional meeting at which time Arizona will add hers to this collection of "Famous Americans."

January is the month to renew and enlarge your selection of Roses. New and interesting Roses are offered by advertisers in this issue.

Every Five Days . . .

By Ruth R. Nelson

The calendar has brought us into December, and still there has not been, here at Rancho Santa Fe, sufficient cold weather to put my garden to sleep, nor enough rain to change my usual program of a deep irrigation every five days.

My seven great eucalyptus trees plus frequent dry autumn winds are the reason for this. But now, with the assistance of these seasonal winds, my tall trees have shaken down their many dead twiggy branches, peeled off their cracked brown bark, and stand there in the garden, silver-clean, with smooth, magnificent branches outlined against the deep blue of winter's sky.

Never has there been a new visitor in my garden who failed to exclaim: "How do you make all of these plants grow? I thought a garden was an impossibility where there were eucalyptus trees!" Usually these visitors have followed my winding paths among the garden-beds for some little time before they realize that seven stalwart trees are the principle feature of a garden plan I have never wished to change. However, during the past ten years, by actual trial, hardy plants which could survive under these conditions, have gradually found a congenial place in this setting. Long ago the annuals were abandoned for plants and shrubs of a sturdier nature. Now I have fragrance, color, and the required effects without too much anxiety about the busy network of roots which must underlie my entire space.

There are very few unusual plants to point out to my visitors, but a long list of well-known favorites thrive and multiply by my simple method of twice-a-year fertilization and a generous every-five-days irrigation.

During these early winter months there are interesting small chrysanthemums bordered by ever blooming ageratum, gay poinsettias here and there amongst the shrubbery; a

slender heather in full pinky bloom; arching cotoneaster branches were filled with scarlet berries until the little winter birds arrived; the Monterey pine was never so filled with lovely cones for our holiday decorations; a few hardy roses still appear for our table; a tall lions' tail bush at the end of the border, and my favorite geraniums both show plenty of color. But the pittosporums have burst open their golden berries, and my smoky cloud of artemesia has been trimmed back ready for the new growth, both of these plants having furnished me this autumn with more interesting "arrangement" material than anything else in the garden.

Getting ready for their early spring blossoming are sea dahlias amongst the sword ferns by the wall; Chinese lilies in precise rows near the clothesline; my pet planting of bronze iris (Spanish); a short row of callas look promising for flower show time; hollyhocks, convolvulus (*mauritanicus*), fairy lilies, grape hyacinths, snowdrops, montbretias both orange and scarlet, small groups of other bulbs in the different borders; verbenas, petunias; marguerites white, blue, and yellow; and last of all a splendid new growth on my two large chorizema forecasts a blaze of color against the south wall.

This list of hardy plants, which any amateur need not hesitate to try, would not be complete without mention and tribute to an especial favorite of mine, my ten-year old abelia, resting at this time in its bronze foliage, but the source of supply for many important decorative arrangements, including the exhibit of the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club at the recent County Fair, when their flower stand again won a substantial first prize. Hibiscus, strawberry guavas, many groups of a small type of bamboo; hypericum (*moserianum*) tall and graceful; oleander, a redwood tree, dracenas, English ivy, several buddleias, one

prized syringa, a large tree fern, nandina, honeysuckle over the kitchen window, several arelias with their lovely shiny leaves, two clumps of Australian flax and both dahlias and golden glow which have finished their work for this year. Still unmentioned are the numberless charming little plants in the rock border, whose names I confess I can seldom remember; several varieties of aloes and small agaves. And in the very worst soil in the garden (hard white adobe) are growing large agaves which came from the old Osuna garden, and mesembryanthemum (*edule*) covering this ugly spot.

Certainly this long list, of proven hardy survivors in my garden, thrive sufficiently to satisfy any gardener that the beauty of the eucalyptus need not be sacrificed for the sake of other desirable material. Fertilizer, peat, and water are the answer.

A Florida Garden in November

Blooming now is the white Eupatorium (Mist flower), faintly fragrant, also bright yellow asters in large clusters, each bloom about the size of a dime. Loads of the fragrant variety of *Liatris* a soft purple velvety texture and smells like vanilla. So many different asters in the woods, all small flowers in white, pink, yellow and lavender. The tall *Liatrus* most gone but in places the ground is covered with a dwarf variety about six or eight inches tall. So many varieties of Golden rod and *Bidens* full of pure white flowers with deep yellow stamens. Shrubs putting on Christmas colors and a hundred foot row of *Malvaviscus* loaded with bright red abutilon-like bloom.

Under my pillow is a clump of blue sage and a semi-double Poinsettia about ten feet tall, a white seeded night blooming cereus, a clump of veronica and a tall desert Willow.

Running up over the window is gorgeous *Thunbergia Grandiflora*

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Begonia Club Notes . . .

Collected by Eva Kenworthy Grey

Dear Begonians:

As this is my first letter, it might seem well that I give some account of myself in an attempt to establish my right to be numbered among you. I might open with a sort of paraphrase of an ancient saying—"I came; I saw"—AND I have many times been conquered with conditions that I never previously knew existed in the world of begonia culture.

It all began with a gift of an ordinary little cutting of a *semperflorens* begonia. All I knew at the time of giving and receiving was, that it was a begonia. Well I watched it grow and didn't take any great interest in it until I began to see its possibilities. I might say that these possibilities now include the one of me and my family moving out to leave room for that particular plant.

Last January I made the fatal mistake of visiting a greenhouse and as I had just acquired an automobile, (more to be blamed on the auto) I had a feeling I wanted a few begonias; so I asked for a Rex, and one was brought forth which I was solemnly assured was THE REX. Then I wondered if the florist had what I had heard called an "Elephant ear." Oh yes, he had it but it was called more specifically "Metalica." He said he also had another kind but didn't know the name of it but that was all right. So I returned home with three possessions which seems to have laid the foundation for vast complications in my home life and probably all my subsequent career. I think I ought to tell you that the unknown turned out to be a Metalica, and the Metalica a Haageana; while my rex, was a rex, one out of many, instead of THE REX.

Probably this matter of nomenclature has furnished me with as many laughs as anything else. A short time ago a florist solemnly assured me that an *Argentia Guitata* was a rex. I left him happy in his ignorance, while I was smugly

aware that I knew a darn sight better. You see my education has progressed between January and September. However, I am glad that none of you experts will ever see that particular plant, because it might possibly turn out it was Mad. de Le seps. But I am still calling it *Argentia Guitata*.

My original gift and three first purchases have vastly increased to about seventy-five varietes at present writing. I may have more tomorrow although I have just bought a ton of coal and while that will warm me outwardly, it will chill my purchasing power for begonias. I can sympathize with a fellow member who has bought begonias instead of new dresses for I've bought them when I should have paid my electric light bill and when it was a question of what we should eat in the next few days. It has come to a place now that when we are riding and see a glass roof appearing in the distance, whoever is riding beside, gently and yet insistently placed her foot over mine on the accelerator until we are safely by. But I have a sympathetic family. My father has sworn he must have a key made for his room lest we begin to utilize his window for begonias. But I will get him yet. Some morning he will find himself hanging up in the downstairs closet while his window will be gorgeously arrayed with my prize begonias.

You see, I am handicapped for window space in the right direction. We try out our plants in different windows to find the location where they will be happy. Alas, they all want one certain window. If any of you happen to visit me and hear ghostly murmurings, it will simply be some plants complaining because they can't have that particular window . . In case you are interested about the direction, it is on the north side where a few of the last westerly rays of sun peek in.

When my collection grew beyond a window sill capacity and the availability of a few tables, I was con-

fronted with the problem of what to do to give them a home. The family objected to my using the chairs and I couldn't buy expensive plant stands, because I wanted the money for begonias. Of what use is an expensive plant stand and no begonias to put on it? So my hitherto hidden inventive genius asserted itself and I designed and built first one, then another plant stand. But, alas, they finally filled up. Then came my trip to the Logee establishment and the purchase of several plants. My trip was made miserable homeward by the caustic comments of my family as to where I should put them all. So in desperation I designed and built a sort of bench as we see in the greenhouse. This is where I keep my rexes. I only hope the water doesn't leak through on the polished living room floor. But then I said my family is sympathetic. But I'm not sure about the landlord. Just a tip if any of you build such a bench; put casters on it so it can be moved easily.

I lost several this summer, either I had picked up a diseased plant or else I was so torn between advice to water, to withhold water that I let them dry out during the hot weather. Anyway I went to a greenhouse with two fast ebbing-away plants. "Behold," said expert No. 1, "you have given them too much water, and I will call another expert to give his opinion." Came No. 2, said he, "Behold, you have dried them out." Of course my laughter was long and sustained. So I hied me to the State Experimental Station. He took my plant stripped it of its dirt, held it under water and said; "Behold, nemetodes. You have eel worms and dried out your plants and the eel worms have galled the roots." So now, I'm using plenty of water on my rexes and enough on all my other kinds.

— "Lem."

A new begonia from the Philippine Islands is a new species called *B. Wedii* which is named and discovered by Dr. H. W. Wade, chief pathologist of the Culion Leper Colony on Coron Islands near Culion, in January 1923. The stems are smooth, dark brown, greenish above. The leaves are crowded together at

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Fall Clippings

By Bertha M. Thomas

A stranger stepped from a train 15 years ago, walked 3 blocks up Broadway by which time the air of San Diego filled her lungs a voice very audibly said "This is where I want to live." It has long been understood that people who talk to themselves are crazy—this one has become more crazy each year since then (about San Diego) and of our glorious Fall weather which comes twice consecutively according to the traditional lines

Spring comes in summer
Summer comes in fall
Fall comes in winter
And winter not at all.

Every year proves its truth—what perfect weather we had through October and most of November, for humans and our famous floral world. Fruit trees and flowering shrubs threw out new buds and leaves—even our historic Bermuda grass hung on to its green later than usual. Many of our Fuchsias forgot to start on their dormant season and the Water Lilies keep on blooming utterly heedless of the calendar and defying all laws until their strength gave out. Even now (Dec. 8) we have 9 varieties in bloom. The Water Hawthorn was a month late because it keeps its own calendar and refuses to bring out its glistening white blossoms until water in the pools is sufficiently cold. Marsh-Marigold Monstrosa also followed suite and only 2 weeks ago started its golden showers but these two will stand by us now until summer comes again.

Our variegated English Ivy celebrated our unusual Fall by sending out a strong branch with a very peculiar flower stalk. It is ten years old and never before has thus behaved, therefore we suspect the "unusual" also applies to its blooming. This Ivy is the most beautiful of the family because of the white mottled leaves and no two are marked identically, reminding us of the almost unbelievable "no two blades

of grass are alike." Nature never makes exact duplicates.

Now that our first Fall is over and our second one is with us the pruning shears must be applied plentifully and hard heartedly on all summer flowering trees and shrubs. Of course you all know the general rule of pruning immediately after the blooming or fruiting season—whenever that is. The inhabitants of our floral world not benefitted by pruning are very few and if you do not do it, nature will. In the thick forest the lower limbs will die because denied the light and air. Shrubs having "too much wood" will look weak—no vigorous growth anywhere.

Plants too closely crowded will have small sickly blossoms. Water lily roots growing in small containers will prune themselves by gradually turning yellow the outer leaves, which then will soon die. Nature will do her own work if necessary but why not lend a strong arm in season. Each individual—plant or animal—will develop more strength only as it has room to grow and we can give full directions by the manner of pruning. Sometimes it means dividing and resetting—always, with everything, in its dormant season. Just now is the best time for re-planting hardy water lilies since the roots are then slowly establishing themselves while waiting for the warm spring sunshine to start the leaf growth. The tropical lilies—the bulbs—are best left until growth starts in the spring. The old rule applies here again—do not disturb while water is cold or while plant is not fully dormant.

Sometimes we thoughtlessly lament the absence of the striking colorings of Eastern and Mid-west Fall. But our climate has ways of its own—and sufficient—if we look and think. All flowers here take on a richer brighter color—our berried shrubs are not equaled in any other climate in number or variety of colors. The reds and yellows are of

course the first to catch one's eyes—then take another look for the orange and then the dark blues. Just lately we noticed the pretty little pear shaped blue seed pods of the Myrtifolia, and there are dozens of all colors and kinds. The Eugenias now bring us berries of good size and almost all colors, and our Calif. Holly fully compares in every way with the Eastern variety. And when one mentions Poinsettias we have all climates bested. If they want them they must buy or beg from Southern Calif. Oh yes, one can keep a plant in a Conservatory in the east and proudly show 2 to 12 little insignificant flowers about 2 inches across. We know because we tried. But one who has thus experimented is heartily ashamed when looking at our wonderful ones here which are the grandest biggest and best advertisement California has. Growing even to 12 feet or more and the bloom for months if properly cared for, will be easily 20 to 24 inches in diameter. We usually have blooms early in November—single red—pink—and cream color. Then the double red comes along slowly developing its full center and lasting much longer than the singles. The variegated leaf variety is not yet available commercially—but one can obtain a new variety which does not lose its leaves although why mourn the loss of a few green leaves when one has that magnificent immense flower at the top of an imposing stalk. They like to grow against a wall or building and seem to prefer an east front. They also insist on good drainage, and take a back seat when our Fall-Winter is over since stalks are then cut nearly to the ground and low growing plants use the foreground in summer and early fall.

Our Dombeyas are now full of dropping pink balls and where else in the U. S. can one see them except in San Diego. Here again comes in the well directed pruning shears—we prune the tree back very near to the original trunk after the bloom is done—then again in early summer if one does a good "thinning" the tree does not grow too dense to hide its flowers nor so heavy a strong wind will break its
(Continued on Page 6)

Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLean

QUESTION: I have a beautiful young curly leafed fern potted in black soil and leaf mold. Does freezing and frosty weather injure it, or should I have it in the house when cold? A friend told me that I should give the soil a tablespoon of Castor Oil once a month. Is this true and if not what should I give it for nourishment? Any information will be appreciated, as I love my fern.

Mrs. C. B.

ANSWER: Frost and freezing will certainly injure the type of fern you have reference to. It is not altogether necessary to take the plant inside, but some arrangement should be made for protecting it from the weather. The writer had not previously heard of dosing ferns with Castor Oil, but upon inquiry he finds some people are familiar with the practice. However, the reason for giving them oil is not quite apparent. Possibly there is some fertilizing element in the oil similar to that found in Castor bean pomace. Florists and nurserymen quite generally use dried blood, about a tablespoonful to a plant once a month. This is undoubtedly the better practice. Dried blood can probably be obtained at any seed store handling fertilizers. If you have difficulty in obtaining it, you might try blood and bone, using about double the amount indicated for DRIED blood alone.

QUESTION: Will you please tell me what the vine is that is used for covering chimneys? Will it do any harm to the shingles and will it have to be tied up to keep it on the chimney?

Mrs. L.

ANSWER: Probably what you have reference to is fig vine or creeping fig, *Ficus repens*, as this is the climber most generally used for chimneys and

stone work. It grows quite rapidly and requires no tying. Peculiar organs develop on twigs and branches that fasten the vine firmly to whatever support it has. This vine will, however, work under the shingles unless you occasionally tear it loose. With a little care it can be trained to the chimney alone. When properly trained and trimmed it makes a very fine covering for chimneys, stone walls, etc.

QUESTION: I have several ornamental plants around the house, one of them an Eleagnus and another, a Gardenia, that have the leaves badly riddled and chewed but I can't find what is doing it. Can you advise me what to do about it?

ANSWER: Undoubtedly the culprits are rose beetles, dark colored, hard shelled, wingless insects a quarter to three-quarters of an inch in length. They are more or less injurious all the summer but particularly so during the fall. They do their work at night and hide during the day, so that you are not apt to find them unless you know when to look. They are quite resistant to poisons, so if you have the patience the best remedy is to shake them from the branches into a shallow pan containing a little kerosene. If the plants attacked have a central stem and the branches do not touch the ground or other plants, the beetles can be kept off them by banding the trunk with cotton batting or with tree tanglefoot, first shaking well to dislodge the insects. Another possible remedy is to dust affected plants with a material known as cryolite or with barium fluosilicate, sold under the trade name of Dutox. Generally these dusts must be diluted to some extent with a carrier, such as lime or gypsum, but directions on the package can be followed.

Dewey Kelly

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Fall Clippings

(Continued from Page 5)

with large mauve trumpet-shaped flowers. On one side of garage is a Jacaranda, blue flower and a yellow aloe. Around the base of the house is a row of Crotons of which I have about 10 varieties, several Acalyphas, the A. Musaica variety has top. The tree is exotic both literally and figuratively—its flowers are so delicate they are blighted by wind and rain and it will not stand the least touch of frost. For one of the daintiest possessions, plant a Dombeya but for the most glorious one plant Poinsettias—all color—and plenty of them they give big interest for small investment and then next spring plant the cuttings, for more Poinsettias.

Every flower lover—along with our wonderful friend and advisor, Miss Sessions, suggests "we should have more and more of them" and that favorite saying of her's is fast becoming our motto.

A FLORIDA GARDEN IN NOVEMBER

(Continued from Page 3)

leaves nearly two inches broad and long and has green, orange and red markings.

There are several large Euphorbias, (Devil's Back Bone, or Devil's Tongue) having red tongue shaped flowers; a Chinese Fishtail Palm. Around a pine tree are Kalanchoes, Sanservia Laurentia and a rock bed full of coleus, Seligianella and variegated Tradescantia. Four colors of Sultana and immense Caladiums which have been blooming all summer. Over my little porch climbs a Dutchman's Pipe vine; some call it "Little Rooster" as the flowers look like a rooster; while under the eaves is a large Brazilian pepper loaded with berries. I had to tie branches up but it will be lovely by Christmas.

It would take quite a book to enumerate all the tropical plants we grow here besides all the more common plants like the Marigolds, Zinnias, Petunias and others.

—L. B. Grando, Tampa, Florida

The December Garden . . .

By Walter Birch, Jr.

During the month of December one may sow the seeds of quite a few of the hardier Annuals: *Acroclinium*; Sweet Alyssum; Snapdragons (Rust Proof) either in the mixture or separate colors; *Calandulas*, *Chrysanthia*, Campfire or Orange King; Candytuft; *Calloopsis*; *Clarkia*; Annual Chrysanthemums or Painted Daisies; French Marigolds, Royal Scot, gold striped maroon, or the Tall and Dwarf sorts mixed; California Poppies; Iceland Poppies; *Dianthus* or Pinks; Larkspur, the Early Giant Imperial type makes the best cut flowers due to the plants branching at the base thereby making a good long stem on each flower spike; Lupines and Texas Blue Bonnets; and California Wild Flower Mixtures may be scattered over vacant lots with very little soil preparation and one feels well repaid for the effort in the Spring when they come into bloom. *Mignonette*; *Nigella*; *Nemesia*; Pansies; *Phlox Drummondii*; Stocks and Early Flowering Sweet Peas.

Plants of: Carnations, Canterbury Bells, Columbine, Foxglove, Pansies, *Pentstemon*, Snapdragons, Stocks, Shasta Daisies, Verbenas, Violets, *Dianthus*, and Cinerarias.

Bulbs of: *Amaryllis*; Callas, White, Yellow and Pink; *Hyacinths*; *Narcissus* or Daffodils; Tu-

lips; *Ranunculus*, and Anemones. Be sure and plant the Daffodils and Tulips at least six inches deep.

We have hopes of getting the Japanese Lily Bulbs including the *Lilium Rubrum*, *Tigrinum*, and *Auratum* or Gold Banded Lily. These bulbs should be planted in a rather shady situation where you can leave them undisturbed for a number of years as they are really not at their best until they have been in the ground for four or five years. These bulbs also want to be planted about eight inches deep, putting about an inch of sand just under the bulb to insure good drainage.

If you have not already attended to it your lawn ought to have a good thorough raking with a good Bermuda Grass Rake, then seed it either with Bluegrass and White Clover or a mixture of Paceys Rye Grass, Kentucky Bluegrass, White Clover and Red Top. Give it a good fertilizing and then keep it good and moist until the grass is well started.

In the Vegetable Garden one may make a planting of Radishes, Turnips, Carrots, Beets, Spinach, Onion Sets, Lettuce, Mustard Greens, Green Sprouting Broccoli, Peas either dwarf or tall, Cabbage and Cauliflower.

black and white, a glossary of botanical terms, an index of synonyms, an index of common names, an index of botanical names, an index of general contents both in the front and at the end of the book, and a complete index of the illustrations.

The work is particularly adaptable for quick reference work and belongs in every library of garden literature in California, although its usefulness is by no means limited to California gardeners. (Published by Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York City. \$4.50). —S.B.O.

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South African Plants for American Gardens

South African plants abound in the gardens of California, yet appreciation of this fact is not widespread, and for many years the introduction of additional species and varieties of South African flora has been slow for some inexplicable reason. Sarah V. Coombs' new book, "South African Plants for American Gardens," will without doubt greatly stimulate interest in these plants.

For many years members of the garden fraternity of Southern California have been harangued on the

potential value in their gardens of many South African plants in addition to those now in general use, but specific information as to where they were obtainable has been generally lacking. This new book remedies this situation, for in addition to valuable cultural hints arranged under the heading of Bulbous Plants, Succulents, Herbaceous Plants and Shrubs, there is a list of dealers both in this country and South Africa from whom plants may be obtained. In addition there are 90 illustrations in color and

Roses of the World in Color . . .

A Review by the Editor

The intriguing title of this latest rose book by Dr. J. Horace McFarland is sure to stir the imagination of every dyed in the wool rose fancier. The home gardener with but a casual interest in roses will unquestionably be stimulated into greater rose growing activity in the event this new rose book finds its way into his hands. Unfortunately, few of the garden-minded can afford a complete horticultural library on all subjects, but for almost every field of ornamental horticulture there are a few books that seem indispensable. We feel confident that "Roses of the World in Color" will become one of the indispensable books on roses.

This will not be by reason of the general text of the advice on rose culture, although this is well done in the characteristic style of Dr. McFarland, concise, but complete and informative. The latter is particularly true by reason of the absence of the usual buncombe about soil, fertilizers, etc., which serves to confuse rather than enthuse the average gardener when, as is so often the case, the so-called authorities seemingly delight in differing vigorously with another. Such writers might well bear in mind that the average reader of popular gardening publications regards such statements as facts and not as mere theories or arguments in which category they usually belong.

"Roses of the World in Color" will be indispensable because it provides the reader with something no writer or expert has yet succeeded in achieving with words, namely, lifelike reproductions of roses in all their variable color combinations and tones. Since it is these colored reproductions of some two hundred and fifty odd roses that lend distinction to this volume, a critical analysis of what they are and their accuracy is of prime importance.

To avoid misunderstanding, it should be stated that most of these colored plates have appeared in commercial catalogues, the Ameri-

can Rose Annual, or other publications on the rose. As a matter of fact, a few of these colored plates first appeared nearly twenty years ago in the late Capt. George C. Thomas, Jr.'s "Practical Book of Growing Outdoor Roses for the Home Gardens," and progressively others of them have appeared in the finer rose catalogues and rose literature. This fact, however, requires no apology, for the publishers frankly state that this book is the result of forty years' experience in flower photography and flower color printing, and is only made possible (particularly at the nominal price of \$3.75) by the availability of a large number of color plates already in existence. This point deserves repetition for emphasis. A volume of two hundred and ninety-six pages, with over two hundred and fifty colored reproductions, many of which are full page size, in addition to many illustrations in black and white, would under normal circumstances be impossibly expensive to produce or purchase.

Most of the color plates, as has been previously stated, reproduce rose colors with almost lifelike accuracy, although if one wishes to quibble it can be said that the illustration of the variety, "Carrie Jacobs Bond," leaves much to be desired, that it fails to show the large size and fullness of this variety, and that one would not recognize it by color as the same rose that has been growing in quantity in the Exposition grounds at San Diego for the past two seasons; that Johanna Hill appears more like its darker toned sport Sunkist; that the informal form of Lady Forteviot is lifelike, but there appears to be far too much red in the color tones; that Margaret McGredy appears like any one of a number of red roses in color, while actually this rose is more of a brick red and has a color entirely distinctive in the rose world, and that the reproduction does not show the prominent yellow at the base of the flower; that Mlle. Ce-

cille Brunner is true in color but somehow the petit loveliness of the perfect miniature blooms is not achieved; that the illustration of Mme. Butterfly might be regarded as a gross libel on that variety, although we have seen individual specimens of that lovely lady as bad or worse than the plate shown. There is, however, hardly a hint of the perfect form and coloring of this rose at its best; that the flamboyant color of Padre is somehow missed completely.

Be it said to the credit of Dr. McFarland that, with the exception of Johanna Hill, the varieties criticized have been undertone rather than overdone which is not the usual case with color reproductions, and indicates a sincere effort to illustrate varieties as they really are, rather than like their originators fancy them to be. One must also bear in mind that the colors of roses vary widely in different growing areas and at different seasons of the year. With this thoroughly in mind, we feel that any colored rose illustration should show the variety at its best in form and color, thus fixing clearly in the rose grower's mind that perfection of flower that is the goal of every rose grower.

"Roses of the World in Color" is a book that every rose fan will want, every horticultural library will require, and every firm selling roses should have. (Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Price \$3.75).

Begonia Club Notes

(Continued from Page 4)

the top of the stem, the blades ovate, to oblong-ovate, fleshy, slightly shining; the upper surface green, glabrous, the lower surface much paler and with scattered pale reddish hairs on the nerves and midrib. The flowers are in the upper axils, laxly arranged, rose pink to nearly white. The bracts pale green, boat shaped when young. It grows on coralline limestone formations, at sea level in place where, at times, the plants may be subject to spray from the ocean. It is remarkable for its elongated, thickened stems which attain a great length."

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